Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) would issue Verification Certificates (VCs) in respect of owners, partners or directors of Companies that are members of the concerned Chamber. Based on these Verification Certificates (VCs) and the standard affidavit, passports would be issued to such applicants for ten years and would be subject to post-police verification.

Indo-French atomic energy cooperation

†1083. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the French Government has expressed its intention for cooperation with India regarding the peaceful use of atomic energy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the French Government has assured to agree the other countries of this group to supply of atomic fuel; and

(c) the details of proposals given by French Government and the details of reaction of Indian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. India and Franch signed a Declaration on the Development of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes on February 20, 2006 regarding the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

(b) and (c) The declaration envisages that such cooperation will be in accordance with their respective international obligations and commitments and the adjustment of international civil nuclear cooperation framework with respect to India.

Hindus in Sindh Province

1084. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindu population in the Sindh province of Pakistan are living under the threat of terror and the number of incidents of kidnapping of Hindus have increased throughout the province;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government had or are considering to have any dialogue with Governments of other countries including Pakistan to curb increasing crimes against Hindus; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Pakistan press has been carrying reports of violence including kidnapping against citizens of Pakistan belonging to minority groups. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), a reputed Pakistan based NGO, in its annual reports has also highlighted violence against Hindus in Sindh and other parts of Pakistan. These reports have not been part of bilateral talks between India and Pakistan.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.